

Department of Social and Health Services

DP Code/Title: M2-ZV DLR Foster Parent Training
Program Level - 010 Children's Administration

Budget Period: 2001-03 Version: A3 010 2001-03 2003 Sup Agency Req

Recommendation Summary Text:

The Children's Administration (CA) is requesting \$371,000 and 4.5 FTEs to meet requirements of Section IV, the Unsafe Placements provision, of the Braams lawsuit injunction. Although the remaining sections of the lawsuit were stayed pending appeal to the Washington State Supreme Court, unsafe placements was not. As a result, in August 2002, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) began providing specialized training for foster parents and staff on sexually aggressive and physically assaultive youth.

Fiscal Detail:

Operating Expenditures

	<u>FY 1</u>	<u>FY 2</u>	<u>Total</u>
Overall Funding			
001-1 General Fund - Basic Account-State	0	271,000	271,000
001-A General Fund - Basic Account-DSHS Fam Support/Chi	0	67,000	67,000
001-C General Fund - Basic Account-DSHS Medicaid Federa	0	33,000	33,000
Total Cost	0	371,000	371,000

Staffing

	<u>FY 1</u>	<u>FY 2</u>	<u>Annual Avg</u>
Agency FTEs	0.0	4.5	2.3

Package Description:

In August 1998, 13 former foster children (Jessica Braams, et al) filed a complaint in the Whatcom County Superior Court alleging that conditions in Washington State's foster care system violated their rights under the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution and various federal and state statutes enacted for the protection of children in foster care. The plaintiffs, who later received class-action certification from the court, sought damages for injuries suffered while in foster care, as well as injunctive relief to halt "harmful practices." On December 4, 2001, the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiffs.

In May 2002, the court issued an injunction directed to six areas of DSHS foster care practices: stability of placements, training information and support for foster parents and children, mental and physical health, unsafe placements, separation of siblings, and monitoring compliance. DSHS appealed the injunction and was granted an emergency stay with one exception; the unsafe placement provision of the injunction, Section IV. As a result, DSHS must provide additional specialized training for all foster parents and staff regarding sexually aggressive and physically assaultive youth. This training satisfies the requirements of Section IV, stating that DSHS may place multiple sexually aggressive and physically assaultive youth in a foster home "when that home has been licensed and the foster parents [are] specially trained to deal" with these types of placements.

Since the injunction specified that the Unsafe Placements provision would become effective 90 days after entry of the order on May 31, 2002, CA began phasing in the requirements of Section IV so that the specialized training could be provided beginning August 2002.

To satisfy the requirement for the specialized foster parent training during Fiscal Year 2003, CA will require an additional 4.0 state trainers, and 0.5 clerical, as well as video, web site, classroom applications, and contracted co-trainer/facilitator services to assist at training sessions and workshops. This level of the Division of Licensed Resources (DLR) staff and contracted training support will enable CA to present approximately 43 training sessions on sexually aggressive youth, and approximately 43 training sessions on physically assaultive youth to foster parents statewide during the current fiscal year.

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Narrative Justification and Impact Statement

How contributes to strategic plan:

This proposal directly contributes to the CA goals to Improve the Capacity to Achieve Better Outcomes for Children and Families, and Children Will be Safe from Abuse and Neglect. Additionally, foster parent trainers will Contribute to the Recruitment and Retention of Foster Parents. The proposal also supports the Kids Come First Agenda.

Performance Measure Detail

Program: 010

Goal: 03A Provide stable and permanent placements for children

Incremental Changes

Output Measures

FY 1

FY 2

3AD Number of physically and sexually assaultive youth trainings
provided for foster parents per year.

0

86

Reason for change:

Although most of the Braams lawsuit injunction was stayed pending appeal to the Washington State Supreme Court, Section IV pertaining to unsafe placements was not, requiring DSHS to provide specialized training for foster parents and staff on sexually aggressive and physically assaultive youth.

Impact on clients and services:

This proposal seeks to improve the skills of foster parents who provide care to the foster children of Washington State. Foster parents trained to deal with difficult behaviors will be better prepared to protect children in their care from further abuse.

The new FTEs will provide direct training to foster parents, provide web training, and be available to address specific issues as they arise. Without the additional staff, DLR would need to refer foster parents to community workshops to get their training. Community workshops run contrary to DLR's goals to provide training that addresses specific foster parent issues, is delivered in a timely manner, and ensures a consistent curriculum on a statewide basis.

Impact on other state programs:

None

Relationship to capital budget:

None

Required changes to existing RCW, WAC, contract, or plan:

None

Alternatives explored by agency:

An alternative to this proposal would be to provide the required training for foster parents through existing workshops;

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however, these workshops are generally geared to therapists, not foster parents, so DLR could not ensure a consistent curriculum.

Budget impacts in future biennia:

Funding would continue into future biennia.

Distinction between one-time and ongoing costs:

Equipment purchased for new FTEs would be one-time costs of \$30,000. All other costs would be ongoing.

Effects of non-funding:

Failure to comply with court-ordered requirements may result in the court ordering further remedies, the department being held in contempt, and possible increased tort liability. Foster parents and staff will be less prepared to deal with the high needs population addressed in the court injunction.

Expenditure Calculations and Assumptions:

See attachment - CA M2-ZV DLR Foster Parent Training.xls

<u>Object Detail</u>	<u>FY 1</u>	<u>FY 2</u>	<u>Total</u>
Overall Funding			
A Salaries And Wages	0	209,000	209,000
B Employee Benefits	0	40,000	40,000
E Goods And Services	0	33,000	33,000
G Travel	0	14,000	14,000
J Capital Outlays	0	30,000	30,000
N Grants, Benefits & Client Services	0	35,000	35,000
T Intra-Agency Reimbursements	0	10,000	10,000
Total Objects	0	371,000	371,000

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DSHS Source Code Detail

Overall Funding		<u>FY 1</u>	<u>FY 2</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fund 001-1, General Fund - Basic Account-State				
<u>Sources</u>	<u>Title</u>			
0011	General Fund State	0	271,000	271,000
<i>Total for Fund 001-1</i>		0	271,000	271,000
Fund 001-A, General Fund - Basic Account-DSHS Fam Support/Chi				
<u>Sources</u>	<u>Title</u>			
658L	Title IV-E-Foster Care (50%)	0	67,000	67,000
<i>Total for Fund 001-A</i>		0	67,000	67,000
Fund 001-C, General Fund - Basic Account-DSHS Medicaid Federa				
<u>Sources</u>	<u>Title</u>			
19TA	Title XIX Assistance (FMAP)	0	33,000	33,000
<i>Total for Fund 001-C</i>		0	33,000	33,000
Total Overall Funding		0	371,000	371,000